



DEFINITION OF PERMANENCY

Permanency is both a process and a result that includes involvement of the youth as a participant or leader in finding a permanent connection with at least one committed adult who provides:

- A safe, stable and secure parenting relationship
- Love
- Unconditional commitment
- Lifelong support in the context of reunification, a legal adoption, or guardianship, where possible, and in which the youth has the opportunity to maintain contacts with important persons including brothers & sisters

A broad array of individualized permanency options exist; reunification and adoption are an important two among many that may be appropriate.

DEFINITION OF A PERMANENT/LIFELONG CONNECTION

An adult who consistently states and demonstrates that s/he has entered an unconditional, life-long parent-like relationship with the youth. The youth agrees that the adult will play this role in his/her life.